

Remarks

Claims 1 – 31 remain pending in this application.

Proper Form of Amendment

The Examiner has stated that the Amendment dated September 13, 2007, was not in proper form, according to 37 CFR 1.173(b). The listing of claims submitted herewith places the claim amendments submitted on September 13, 2007, in proper form, as discussed below.

The markings of claims 13-14 and 22-31 have been changed pursuant to 37 CFR 1.173(b) and (d). Specifically, the markings have been changed so that the underlining and bracketing is relative to the text of the patent, pursuant to 37 CFR 1.173(g).

Also, the Amendment dated September 13, 2007 included the parenthetical expression “currently amended” in connection with claims 29 and 31. However, the amendments to claims 29 and 31 submitted on September 13, 2007, represented the second amendments of claims 29 and 31 after those claims were first added. Therefore, the parenthetical expression “currently amended” has been replaced with the parenthetical expression “twice amended” for claims 29 and 31, pursuant to 37 CFR 1.173(b).

The changes made to claim 29 in the Amendment dated September 13, 2007, are as follows:

1. The text “for a surface maintenance machine” was added between the words “system” and “comprising,” in line 1 of the claim. This change is supported in the disclosure of the patent in, for example, col. 2, lines 31-33.

2. The text “said actuator moving a portion of the surface maintenance machine toward contact with a floor surface” was added after the word “operation,” in line 2 of the claim. This change is supported in the disclosure of the patent in, for example, col. 4, lines 8-12.

3. The text "said control component limiting a force applied to the floor surface by said portion while said surface maintenance machine is powered across the floor surface" was added at the end of the claim. This change is supported in the disclosure of the patent in, for example, col. 4, lines 61-63.

The changes made to claim 31 in the Amendment dated September 13, 2007, are as follows:

1. The text "of a surface maintenance machine" was added between the words "actuator" and "comprising," in line 1 of the claim. This change is supported in the disclosure of the patent in, for example, col. 2, lines 31-33.

2. The text "and said linear actuator being coupled to a portion of the surface maintenance machine, said portion adapted to move toward contact with a floor surface in response to activation of said linear actuator," was added after the word "operation," in line 3 of the claim. This change is supported in the disclosure of the patent in, for example, col. 4, lines 8-12.

3. The word "measured" on line 7, between the words "the" and "current," was deleted. This change is supported in the disclosure of the patent in, for example, col. 5, lines 13-18.

4. The text "said controlling tending to limit a down force applied by said portion against the floor surface while said surface maintenance machine is powered across the floor surface" was added at the end of the claim. This change is supported in the disclosure of the patent in, for example, col. 4, lines 61-63.

Supplemental Declaration

Claims 1-31 were rejected based on a defective declaration. Therefore, a supplemental declaration including the "all errors" statement, to cover the amendments made since the first declaration was filed, is submitted herewith pursuant to MPEP § 1414.01.

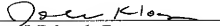
Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the pending claims 1-31.

Please direct any questions or comments regarding this application to Audrey J. Babcock at (612) 977-8229.

Respectfully submitted,
Tennant Company, by its attorneys

By: 
Audrey J. Babcock, Esq.
Registration No. 57,702
John F. Klos, Esq.
Registration No. 37,162
Briggs and Morgan, P.A.
2200 IDS Center
80 South Eighth Street
Minneapolis, MN 55402
Telephone: (612) 977-8400

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